

“LITERATURE IS
THE EXPRESSION
OF SOCIETY.”

QUESTION BANK

LITERATURE [O/L]

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Part 1

Section A

1. "You must behave as others do
If they're to have respect for you!"
 - a) In which poem do these lines appear? Who wrote it?
 - b) Who is the speaker? Who is 'You'?
 - c) Whose point of view is given here?
 - d) What is the idea that the poet tries to convey?
2. "I felt a conscious impulse in my clay
To break away."
From the great potter's hand that burned so warm"
 - a) From which poem are these lines taken? Who wrote it?
 - b) What is the literary device used in the 3rd line?
 - c) Who is the speaker?
 - d) Describe the feelings of the speaker?
3. "It may not be purchased of the merchants, nor can it be weighed out in the balance for gold"
 - a) From where are these words taken? Who wrote the text?
 - b) What is described by 'it'?
 - c) Whose point of view is given here?
 - d) What is the idea of the speaker about 'it'?
4. "I had an image of my father walking out of the hotel, there were puddles everywhere, he had his trousers rolled up."
 - a) From where are these lines taken? Who wrote the text?
 - b) Whose thoughts are given here?
 - c) Why had 'He' rolled up his trousers?
 - d) Why do these thoughts cross her mind?
5. "Well now, it's very nice to have got two pieces of cloth – god bless us!"
 - a) From which text are these lines taken? Who wrote it?
 - b) Who speaks these lines to whom?
 - c) Who has woven the cloth?
 - d) What characteristic of the speaker is apparent here?
6. "I know it's no secret to you that he was often unfair to me, cruel and..... and even unfaithful..."
 - a) From where are these lines extracted? Who wrote it?
 - b) Who speaks these lines and who is "he"?
 - c) What quality of 'he' is highlighted here?
 - d) What does this line tell us about the relationship between the speaker and 'he'?
7. "his wings are clipped and
His feet are tied
so he opens his throat to sing"
 - a) Name the work that carries these lines. Name the writer.
 - b) Who is referred to as 'he'?

- c) What is indicated by the 'clipped wings'?
- d) Why does 'he' start singing?
8. "As I turn my head to look at him I feel something whizz pass my ear and a bullet thuds into the side of the seat, the exact spot where my head had been a few seconds earlier."
- a) What is the text in which these lines appear? Who wrote it?
- b) Who speaks these words?
- c) Where was the speaker when the incident happened?
- d) How do you explain the feelings of the speaker when the incident was taking place?
9. "He told you twice, but you weren't listening. You often don't listen when we tell you important things."
- a) From where are these lines taken? Who wrote them?
- b) Who is referred to as "he"?
- c) What has he told twice?
- d) According to the above statement, what type of a person is the listener?
10. "I'd rather sit on a barrel of gunpowder than talk to a woman"
- a) Name the work from which this extract is taken. Who wrote it?
- b) Who is the speaker?
- c) Why does the speaker insult the other person?
- d) How would you describe the speaker's attitude towards women as reflected here?
11. "These few days-it's only a short time- I've been really happy- wrapped up in your love, and singing and playing with the children..... I'll never forget these happy days wherever I go-and forever....."
- a) From which work is this extract taken? Who wrote it?
- b) What is the tone of the speaker at this moment?
- c) Name a literary device used in this utterance.
- d) What is the situation brought out in this extract?
12. "In fine we thought that he was everything
To make us wish that we were in his place."
- a) Name the work in which these lines appear and name the writer.
- b) Who is referred to as 'he'?
- c) Where do "we" live?
- d) What was the wish of 'we'? What attitude is reflected in that wish?
13. "For my laugh in the mirror shows only my teeth like a snake's bare fangs"
- a) Name the work in which these lines appear. Who wrote it?
- b) Whose laugh is described here?
- c) What technique is employed?
- d) Explain the effect of this technique.
14. "She was now engaged in energetic and rather hopeless search for him among the artichokes and raspberry canes."
- a) Name the work which these lines appear. Who is the writer?
- b) Who is engaged in the search?
- c) Why was the search hopeless?

- d) What does this “hopeless search” reveal about ‘she’?
15. “The jeep jerked forward and she lost her grip, fell off.”
- Name the work which these lines appear and name the writer.
 - Who is the speaker?
 - Whom is referred to as ‘she’?
 - Describe the feelings evoked by this incident.
16. “ Stop worrying about the supper. You have got to come. Let’s play together.”
- Name the work which these lines appear. Who wrote it?
 - Where is the speaker?
 - Whom does he address?
 - What qualities of the speaker are highlighted in this utterance?
17. “I have not the pleasure of being either your husband or your fiancé, so please don’t make scenes.”
- From where are these lines taken and who wrote them?
 - Whose words are these?
 - To whom are they directed?
 - Comment on the feelings of the speaker.
18. “My past unshapely natural state was best
With just one flower flaming through my breast.”
- Name the poem from which these lines are taken and name the writer.
 - Who is the speaker of these lines?
 - What is the tone of the speaker?
 - What do you think made the speaker utter these words?
19. “We were leaving my parents behind. I panicked now. If I had screamed at their door as we ran out, they could have run with us,”
- From which work are these lines taken and who wrote them?
 - Who are referred to as ‘we’?
 - What is the tone of the speaker?
 - How would you describe the speaker’s feelings at this moment?
20. “I was told I wasn’t to go into the gooseberry garden”
- From which text are these lines taken? Who wrote them?
 - Who is the speaker?
 - To whom are they spoken?
 - What qualities of the speaker are revealed through these lines?
21. “Oh dear, cold soup is not good for my sweetheart.”
- From which text are these lines taken and who wrote them?
 - Who is the speaker?
 - Who is referred to as ‘sweetheart’?
 - What is the attitude of the speaker towards this ‘sweetheart’?
22. “What pleasure it will give me to put a bullet into your thick head! Devil take you.”
- From where are these lines taken and who is the author?
 - Who is referred to as ‘me’?

- c) Whose head is referred to as 'thick head'?
- d) What is the attitude of the speaker about the listener is explained here?
23. "Mother whose heart hung humble as a button. On the bright splendid shroud of your son"
- a) From where are these lines taken and who wrote them?
- b) Who is referred to as 'son'?
- c) Identify a literary device used in the 1st line.
- d) What idea do you think the poet tries to convey through 'bright splendid shroud'?
24. "But to take a large hoe and shovel also
And dig till you gently perspire"
- a) From which work have these lines be extracted and name the writer.
- b) Whom does the poet address?
- c) Why did the poet say so?
- d) What is the solution he gives in this extract?
25. "He flung himself down on the grass, and buried his face in his hands, and wept."
- a) From where are these lines taken and who wrote them?
- b) Who is referred as 'he'?
- c) What is the situation described here?
- d) What characteristics of the student are evident from these lines?
26. "All the waves now, charging, churning. Suddenly furious. Suddenly menacing."
- a) From where is this line extracted? Who is the writer?
- b) What is the situation described here?
- c) Identify a literary device used in this line.
- d) What is the purpose of using that device?
27. "From somewhere and unnoticed she appeared like a wind. Since then, that lazy fellow has been
coining money without lifting a finger over."
- a) From where are these lines taken and who is the writer?
- b) Identify a literary device used here.
- c) Who are referred as 'she' and 'lazy fellow'?
- d) What is the speaker's attitude towards the 'lazy fellow'?
28. "You're young and beautiful, with roses in your cheek—if you only took a little pleasure. Beauty
won't last long, you know."
- a) In which work do these lines appear? Who is the writer?
- b) Who utters these words and to whom?
- c) What is meant by 'roses in your cheek'?
- d) What qualities of the speaker do you think are evident through these lines?
29. "Art thou so fruitful? Or dost thou beguile
Such men to honor thee, who worn with toil,
Rest for a space twixt Cairo and Decan?"
- a) From where are these lines taken and who is the writer?
- b) Who is referred to as 'such men'?
- c) Who is addressed here?
- d) What is the main idea revealed here?

30. "So show me son,
How to laugh; show me how,
I used to laugh and smile,
Once upon a time when I was like you"
- From where are these lines taken and who wrote it?
 - Who is the speaker?
 - Name the poetic device used here?
 - What is the theme put forward in these lines?
31. "It is notable how quickly we got over that attack on us. Although we were physically injured, mentally we held strong."
- Name the text where can this extract be found and name the writer.
 - What is the incident mentioned here?
 - Who is the speaker?
 - What can be said about the endurance of them?
32. "That region that was so carefully sealed from youthful eyes and concerning which no questions were ever answered. It came up to his expectations."
- Name the work that carries this extract and name the author.
 - What is the 'region' mentioned here?
 - Who is referred to as 'his'?
 - Why did it come up to his expectations?
33. "If I don't pay the interest due tomorrow, will force me to make a graceful exit from life feet first. They will take my estate."
- From where is this extract taken and who is the writer?
 - Who speaks this to whom?
 - What is the state of mind of the speaker?
 - What character traits of the speaker are conveyed here?
34. "Make the stuff! Right away! They say they can sell it at three or four times more than before- it's worth hundreds of dollars!"
- From which text is this extract taken and who is the writer?
 - Who is the speaker?
 - Who are referred to as 'they'?
 - What would you say about the attitudinal change of the speaker?
35. "He stirred his velvet head
Like one in danger, cautious"
- Name the poem from which these lines are taken. Name the poet.
 - Who is referred to as 'He' in these lines?
 - Name a literary device used in these lines.
 - Why does the speaker assume that "he" is cautious?
36. "...but for some days past he had practiced with the key of the schoolroom door; he did not believe in trusting too much to luck and accident."
- From which work are these lines taken and name the author.
 - Who is referred to as 'he' in these lines?
 - What characteristics are expressed about 'he' in these lines?

- d) Briefly explain the significance of these lines to the prose from which they are taken.
37. "Won't you please enjoy a life of peace and happiness with me, together and forever?"
- Name the play from which this line is taken. Name the writer.
 - Who is referred to as 'you' in this line?
 - When does the speaker say this line in the play?
 - What theme of the drama is highlighted in this line?
38. "From the moment I could talk I was ordered to listen
Now there's a way and I know that I have to go away."
- From which poem are the above lines taken? Name the poet.
 - Who is referred to as 'I' in the lines?
 - Who has given the orders to the speaker?
 - What is the main theme reflected in these lines?
39. "They didn't say a word. Our feet was loud though. I could hear them, slamming the ground."
- From which work are these lines taken? Name the author.
 - Who is referred to as 'they' in these lines?
 - Why didn't they speak?
 - Briefly describe the narrator's emotions as presented in these lines.
40. "I've locked myself in, and will be true to you till the grave, and you... aren't you ashamed, you bad child?"
- Name the play from which these lines are taken and name the writer.
 - To whom does the speaker say these words?
 - What is meant by 'I've locked myself in'?
 - Briefly describe the speaker's character as presented in these lines.
41. "He clasps the crag with crooked hands"
- From where is this line taken and who is the writer?
 - Who is 'he'?
 - Where is 'he' at the moment?
 - What quality of 'he' is suggested here?
42. "The sun burns on the half mown hill
By now the blood is dried"
- In which poem do these lines appear? Who wrote it?
 - What does the half mown hill symbolize?
 - What do you understand by the word 'blood'?
 - What is implied by the second line?
43. "On every flower that shuts its sweet eyes,
And wash the dusk with silver. Soon full soon."
- Name the literary work and the writer?
 - What is the tone of the speaker?
 - Who is being addressed?
 - What is the attitude of the speaker towards the address?

44. "I know there are two jars of it in the store cupboard, because I looked and of course you know it's there, but she doesn't..."
- From where are these words taken and who wrote the text?
 - What do the pronouns 'it', 'you' and 'she' refer to?
 - Who is the speaker?
 - Describe the character traits of the speaker revealed from this extract?
45. "Oh my god, you were out first ball, run out the next innings and now you have been shot. What a terrible first tour."
- From where are these lines extracted? Who presents them?
 - About whom are these words concerned?
 - Who is the speaker?
 - What is the tone of the speaker?
46. "I have learned to wear many faces like dresses..."
- From where is this line taken and who is the writer?
 - Who is the speaker?
 - To whom is he/she speaking?
 - What does the writer/speaker mean by wearing many faces?
47. "And I put
My head in my hands
And wept."
- Name the work and the writer.
 - Who is referred to as I?
 - What action of 'I' is mentioned here?
 - Comment on the attitude of the speaker towards this situation?
48. "I shall go back to philosophy and study Metaphysics."
- Name the work from which this line is taken. Name the writer.
 - Who is referred to as 'I'?
 - Whose relationship made him to think so?
 - What does the writer want to point out through the above line?
49. "Then I saw Steve's face. I'd never seen him like that before. A sudden look of terror, eyes wide open, mouth agape. He saw something behind me..."
- From which work are these lines taken and who is the author?
 - Who is Steve?
 - What do you mean by the word 'agape'?
 - What can you tell about the narrator?
50. "And aren't you ashamed? I am good and virtuous little wife. I've locked myself in and will be true to you..."
- From where are these lines taken and who is the writer?
 - Who is the speaker?
 - To whom is he/she speaking?
 - What is the speaker's feeling towards the person he/she speaks to?
51. "You do love her, don't you? Well, then why not save up money for her by selling the cloth?"

- a) From where is this line taken and who wrote the text?
- b) Who is the speaker?
- c) Who are referred to as 'you' and 'her'?
- d) According to your understanding, what qualities of the speaker are reflected through this utterance?

52. "Terence look your last at me,
For I come home no more..."

- a) Where do you find these lines? Who wrote them?
- b) Who is Terence?
- c) Who is the speaker?
- d) Why does the speaker speak in this way?

53. "The wrinkled sea beneath him crawls..."

- a) From where is this line taken? Who wrote it?
- b) Whose action is described here?
- c) Name a literary device used here?
- d) What does the poet want to convey through this line?

54. "Scatter thy silver dew
On every flower that shuts its sweet eyes
In timely sleep..."

- a) Name the work from which these lines are taken and name the writer.
- b) Who is referred to as 'thy'?
- c) Name two literary devices used here.
- d) Select any one of them and show how far it is effective?

55. "I was taken aback. How can this man value his life less than mine? His sincerity was overwhelming..."

- a) From which work is this line taken? Name the author.
- b) To whom is he speaking this utterance?
- c) Who is mentioned as 'this man'?
- d) What can you tell about this speaker?

56. "It will be a glorious afternoon for racing about over those beautiful sands. How they will themselves..."

- a) Name the text and the author.
- b) Who is the speaker?
- c) To whom is he/she speaking?
- d) How do you feel about this speaker? Why?

57. "But he doesn't say exactly how he feels,
Doesn't say what's bothering him inside."

- a) From where are these lines taken and who wrote them?
- b) What is the situation referred here?
- c) Who is the speaker?
- d) Why do you think 'he' doesn't say what's bothering him inside?

58. "They looked like frightened beads I thought. He stirred his velvet head."

- a) From where are these lines taken and who wrote them?

- b) Who is referred to as 'he'?
- c) Where is 'he' at the moment?
- d) Why do you think 'he stirred his velvet head'?
59. "Don't talk none sense" said the prisoner in the tank."
- a) From where are these lines taken and who wrote them?
- b) Who is the speaker?
- c) Mention a technique used in this line.
- d) How would you describe the speaker's qualities as reflected through these lines?
60. "Their faces above the water, the tops of their faces pressing against the jeeps canvas hood..."
- a) From where are these lines taken and who wrote them?
- b) What is the situation?
- c) Where are they at the moment?
- d) How would you describe the narrator's feelings as reflected through these lines?
61. "But you my dear exchanged it every time for the thing called "money"!"
- a) From where is this line taken and who is the writer?
- b) To whom are these words spoken?
- c) What is referred to as 'it' here?
- d) What qualities of 'you' are brought out through these lines?
62. "What grace there was in his figure when he pulled at the reins with all his strength!"
- a) From where are these lines taken and who is the writer?
- b) To whom was it spoken?
- c) Who is referred to as "he" here?
- d) What qualities of the speaker are evident in these lines?
63. "The fleece of our flocks are covered with thy sacred dew and protect them with thine influence"
- a) From where are these lines taken and who wrote them?
- b) Who is referred to as 'thy'?
- c) What is the action attributed to 'thy'?
- d) What is the feeling expressed towards 'thy' in these lines?
64. "Up there he's a king on a throne but at home you should hear him mourn"
- a) Name the poem from which these lines are taken and name the poet.
- b) Who is the speaker of these lines?
- c) About whom are they spoken?
- d) What is the theme reflected in these lines?
65. "The Chamberlain's nephew has sent me some real jewels
and everybody knows that jewels cost far more than flowers."
- a) From which work are these lines taken and who is the author?
- b) Who speaks these lines?
- c) To whom are they spoken?
- d) How would you describe the speaker's character?
66. "We were shot at, grenades were thrown at us, we were injured and yet we were not cowed."
- a) From which text are these words taken and who speaks these words?

- b) Who are referred to as 'we'?
- c) How did they face the situation?
- d) What aspect of the speaker's character is reflected in these words?
67. "They say Kyoto is awfully beautiful. By this time cherry blossoms will be in full bloom, won't they?"
- a) From which text are these lines taken and who wrote them?
- b) Who is the speaker?
- c) Why does he want to go to Kyoto?
- d) What aspect of the speaker's character is reflected in these words?
68. "Only freaks and old women are faithful and constant. You'll meet a cat with a horn or a white woodcock sooner than a constant woman."
- a) From where are these lines taken and who is the author?
- b) Who is the speaker here?
- c) To whom are the words spoken?
- d) What theme in the drama is expressed through these lines?
69. "The wrinkled sea beneath him crawls,
He watches from his mountain walls"
- a) From where are these lines taken and who wrote them?
- b) Who is referred to as "he" in the second line?
- c) Where is 'he' at the moment?
- d) Why does the sea crawl beneath him?
70. "And long will stand the empty plate
And dinner will be cold"
- a) Name the poem from which these lines are taken and name the writer.
- b) What is the tone of the speaker?
- c) Why does he use such a tone?
- d) What are the feelings created by these lines?
71. "We all realized what some of our fellow Sri Lankans experienced every day for early thirty years."
- a) From which work are these lines taken? Name the writer.
- b) Who are referred to as 'we'?
- c) What did 'we' realize?
- d) Explain how 'we' realize that experience?
72. "In fact is like most artists; she is all style without any sincerity."
- a) From which text are these words taken and name the writer.
- b) Who says these words?
- c) About whom?
- d) What qualities of the speaker are revealed through this utterance?
73. "Then I saw Steve's face I'd never seen him like that before. A sudden look of terror, eyes wide open, mouth agape"
- a) From which text are these lines taken and who wrote this text?
- b) Who is 'I'?
- c) Who is Steve?

- d) Why was Steve shocked and terrified?
74. "Yes I know it's no secret to you that he was often unfair to me, cruel and.... and even unfaithful, but I shall be true till death, and show him how I can love."
- Name the work in which these lines appear and name the writer.
 - Who is the speaker?
 - Who is the listener?
 - What qualities of the speaker's character are revealed through these lines?
75. "Now, whilst the sun rests on the mountains, light
Thy bright torch of love; thy radiant crown
Put on, and smile upon our evening bed!"
- Name the work in which these lines appear and name the writer.
 - Who/ what is referred to as 'thy'?
 - What is the tone of the speaker?
 - What does the speaker expect from 'thy' according to these lines?
76. "He watches from his mountain walls,
And like a thunderbolt he falls"
- Name the work in which these lines appear and who is the writer?
 - Who is referred to as 'he'?
 - Name the technique in the last line.
 - What is the effect created by this technique?
77. "And here's a bloody hand to shake,
And oh, man, here's goodbye,"
- Name the work in which these lines appear and name the writer.
 - Who speaks these lines?
 - What is meant by "bloody hands"?
 - Comment on the feelings of the speaker.
78. "The reaction was immediate. Everyone dived for cover and took shelter on the isle or behind the seats."
- Name the work in which these lines appear and name the writer.
 - What is the situation described here?
 - Who is meant by everyone'?
 - Comment on the effect created by these lines.
79. "It will be a glorious afternoon for racing about those beautiful sands. How they will enjoy themselves!"
- Name the work in which these lines appear and name the writer.
 - Who is the speaker?
 - Who is referred to as "they"?
 - Comment on the qualities of the speaker.
80. "Why I don't believe you have even got silver buckles to your shoes as the Chamberlain's nephew has."
- Name the work in which these lines are taken and name the writer.
 - Who is the speaker?

- c) To whom does the speaker speak these words?
- d) What are the attitudes of the speaker towards 'you'?

81. "His wings are clipped and
His feet are tied
So he opens his throat to sing."

- a) Name the work from which these lines are taken and name the writer.
- b) Whose behavior is described here?
- c) What does his behavior indicate?
- d) How do you feel about 'he'? why?

82. "Nurse of Swart nations since the world began,
Art thou so fruitful?"

- a) From where are these lines taken and name the poet.
- b) Who is 'thou' in these lines?
- c) What is the poetic device used in the second line?
- d) What is the effect created from it?

83. "They would put her on a throne
Where I could not go to see her.
And when night time came
I could never rock her."

- a) Name the text that carries these lines and name the writer.
- b) Who are referred to as 'they' in this extract?
- c) Who is the speaker here?
- d) What are the feelings of the speaker here?

84. "Nurse of swart nations since the world began,
Art thou so fruitful? Or dost thou beguile"

- a) From where is this extract taken and who wrote it?
- b) What is meant by 'swart nations'?
- c) What is referred to as 'thou' and what is the technique used?
- d) What is the tone of the speaker?

85. "...it was the instrument which kept the mysteries of the lumber room secure from unauthorized intrusion...."

- a) In which work do these lines appear? Who is the author?
- b) What is the 'instrument' mentioned in this extract?
- c) What is meant by "unauthorized intrusion"?
- d) What is the attitude of the narrator towards the adults?

86. "It is ok if I die because it is my job and I am ready."

- a) From where are these lines taken and who wrote them?
- b) Who speaks these words?
- c) To whom are these words spoken?
- d) What is the situation which makes the character say these words?

87. "You have the misfortune to be a woman, you know from yourself, what is the nature of a woman."

- a) From where are these lines taken and who wrote them?

- b) Who speaks the above words and to whom are they spoken?
 c) What is the tone of the speaker?
 d) How would you describe the speaker's attitude to the behaviour of the person spoken to?
88. "Don't be a fool dearest. I'll be back. I know I'll come back. I'll go to Kyoto just to make a lot of profit....oh, that's a good idea – we'll go to Kyoto together."
 a) From which work are these lines taken and name the writer.
 b) Who speaks here and who are referred to as 'we'?
 c) What is the speaker's intention of going to Kyoto?
 d) What theme deals with the given extract?
89. "My past unshapely natural state was best
 With just one flower flaming through my breast"
 a) From which poem are these lines taken? Who wrote it?
 b) Who speaks these words?
 c) What is referred to as 'unshapely natural state'?
 d) What is communicated by these lines about the speaker's feelings towards change?
90. "There's nothing you can do to help us but
 It's good to know some lines haven't yet been cut"
 a) Name the poem which these lines are taken and name the poet.
 b) Who speaks these words?
 c) Why does the speaker need help?
 d) What is meant by 'some lines haven't yet been cut'?
91. "They didn't say a word. Our feet were loud though. I could hear them, slamming the ground."
 a) From which text are these lines taken and who is the writer?
 b) Who speaks these lines?
 c) Who are referred to as 'they'?
 d) Briefly describe the reason for their hurried movement.
92. "I was taken aback. How can this man value his life less than mine?"
 a) From which text are these words taken and who is the writer?
 b) Who is referred to as 'this man'?
 c) What characteristic of the man left the speaker amazed?
 d) What aspect of the speaker's character is reflected in these words?
93. "I didn't come to your steward, but to you! What the devil, excuse my saying so, have I to do with your steward!"
 a) Name the work from which this extract is taken and name the writer.
 b) Who is the speaker?
 c) Why does the speaker have to wait for the steward?
 d) How would you describe the speaker's character?
94. "Why should I get angry with you?What is it?
 Please, please tell me my darling."
 a) From which work is this extract taken? Who wrote it?
 b) Who is the speaker here?
 c) Who is addressed?

d) What does the listener reluctantly keep by making the speaker suspenseful?

95. "Speak silence with thy glimmering eyes"

- a) From where are these lines taken and who wrote them?
- b) Who is referred to as 'thy'?
- c) What is he/she requested to do?
- d) Comment on the use of the literary technique in the given line.

96. "We are tough and we will get through hardships and we will overcome because our spirit is strong."

- a) From which work are these lines taken and who is the writer?
- b) Who are referred to as 'we'?
- c) What does he mean through the above line?
- d) What do you feel about the speaker's determination?

97. "He told you twice, but you weren't listening. You often don't listen when we tell you important things."

- a) From which work are these lines taken and who wrote the text?
- b) Who is the speaker?
- c) To whom are they spoken?
- d) What is suggested about the character referred to as 'you'?

98. "We'll see when they carry them out."

- a) From where is this line taken and who is the writer?
- b) Who is the speaker here?
- c) Who are referred to as 'they'?
- d) What can you understand about the speaker from the given line?

99. "Yes I dislike you. I don't like you. I'm not fond of you – you are a cross woman!"

- a) From where are these lines taken and who wrote them?
- b) Whose words are these and to whom are they spoken to?
- c) What prompted the speaker to utter these words?
- d) What idea is highlighted by this utterance?

100. "Where are you going? Stop.... No, go away. Oh how angry I am! Don't come near me...!"

- a) Name the work where these lines appear and name the writer.
- b) Who is the speaker and to whom are these words spoken?
- c) What is the situation given here?
- d) What theme of the text does this extract relate to?

Part 11

Section B

01. "Exactly as one does with a typewriter", Mali answered and Jagan admired him for the fund of information he had gathered on the subject.

Just at this moment, Grace came in, stood beside them and said 'Isn't he clever?' in a jocular manner.

Jagan could not answer her immediately, his mind was too full of confusions and questions. He felt hemmed in: the room has lost its original appearance and looked like an office in a foreign country. What was Mali trying to do? What was his own part in all this activity? What was going to be the nature of his involvement? He said with some trepidation, 'Grace, do you know that our ancestors never even wrote the epics? They composed the epics and recited them, and the great books lived thus from generation to generation, by the breath of people...'

1. What is the incident described in this passage? When does this happen?
 2. Why is Jagan confused here?
 3. Write in your own words the meanings of the followings.
 - a) Hemmed in
 - b) By the breath of people
 4. What main theme is reflected through this passage? Explain briefly.
02. "When he was six years old, he was a happy supporter of Jagan's tanning activities in the back veranda of the house, but as he grew older he began to complain of the stench whenever his father brought home leather. Jagan's wife proved even less tolerant than the son; she shut herself in a room and refused to come out until the tanning ended."
1. Describe Jagan's purpose of tanning.
 2. What character traits of Jagan are revealed here?
 3. Explain the meanings.
 - a) Stench
 - b) Less tolerant
 4. How do you relate the behaviour of Jagan's wife in this context with the future crisis in Jagan's family?
03. "Jagan passed the statue on its Northside so that he might not embarrass his son, but he liked to make sure that he was there; with a swift glance at the group, he spotted Mali by the deep yellow of his shirt and the brief glimpse filled him with joy. He tiptoed away looking elsewhere, muttering to himself irrelevantly, 'poor boy, poor boy let him be'. He was very proud of his son's height, weight and growth. There are others, but he stands out among them. I wonder what god has in store for him,' he reflected."
1. What is the situation described in the text? Where does it take place?
 2. What are Jagan's feelings at the moment of this incident?
 3. Explain the meanings of the following words.
 - a) Embarrass
 - b) Tiptoed
 4. What characteristics of Jagan are implied through the above extract?
04. "when his staff is gone, he put away his scripture book and pulled the drawer of his table half out; it was padded with a folded towel in order to muffle the sounds of coins being emptied from

the bronze jug. ‘His fingers quickly sorted out the denominations, the fives, tens and quarters with the flourish of a virtuoso running his fingers over a key board...’

1. Who is referred to as ‘he’? Where is ‘he’?
2. Why did he use a folded towel when emptying the money?
3. Write the meanings of the following words.
 - a) Muffle
 - b) Virtuoso
4. What qualities of his character are reflected here?

05. “But he found his domestic life irksome. He had lost the quiet joy of anticipation he used to experience whenever he turned the statue corner. He felt nervous as he approached the ancient house. The expectant stare of Grace when he opened the door and the significant side glances of Mali got on nerves. He was aware of a silent tension growing. He felt happy if nobody came when he turned the key in the door...”

1. Who is ‘he’? What is ‘his’ mood?
2. Why did ‘he’ find his domestic life irksome?
3. Explain.
 - a) Anticipation
 - b) Approach
4. What characteristics of ‘he’ can be noticed? What is your feeling towards him?

06. “Without looking up he was aware that the frying had stopped, he noticed the hissing of the oven when the fire died out, the clinking of the pans and ladles being washed, and then the footsteps approaching him, four pairs of feet from the kitchen, and one pair from the front stall, as trays of leftovers were brought in as the last act for the day. Then, when he knew that all of them were assembled at his desk, he addressed on a general way a routine question, “How much is leftover?”

1. Who is referred to as ‘he’ and where is ‘he’?
2. What is the situation described here?
3. Explain.
 - a) Approaching
 - b) Assembled
4. Comment on the qualities of ‘he’ in relevant to the above passage.

07. “At this moment Jagan almost fancied himself a monarch on a throne surveying his people (consisting of the four cooks in the kitchen and the front stall boy) and accepting their tributes. The throne was a flat-bottomed wooden chair covered with a thin cushion, hoisted on a platform, strategically placed so that he could keep an eye on all sides of his world of confections.”

1. What is the situation presented in the extract?
2. Why is Jagan’s chair placed on a platform?
3. Write the meanings in your own words.
 - a) Fancied
 - b) Monarch
4. Why does Jagan portray himself as ‘a monarch on a throne’?

08. “Exactly as one does with a typewriter”, Mali answered, and Jagan admired him for the fund of information he had gathered on the subject. Just at this moment, Grace came in, stood beside them and said, ‘Isn’t he clever?’ in a jocular manner.

Jagan could not answer her immediately, in his mind was too full of confusions and questions. He felt hemmed in: the room has lost its original appearance and looked like an office in a foreign country. What was Mali trying to do? What was his own part in all this activity? What was going to be the nature of his involvement? He said with some trepidation, 'Grace, do you know that our ancestors never even wrote the epics? They composed the epics and recited them, and the great books lived thus from generation to generation, by the breath of people...'

1. What is the incident described in this passage? When does this happen?
 2. Why is Jagan confused here?
 3. Write in your own words.
 - a) Hemmed in:
 - b) By the breath of people
 4. What main theme is reflected through this passage? Explain briefly.
09. "Watching him in this setting, it was difficult for Jagan, as he mutely followed him, to believe that he was in the twentieth century. Sweetmeat vending, money and his son's problems seemed remote and unrelated to him. The edge of reality itself was beginning to blur; this man from the previous millennium seemed to be the only object worth notice; he looked like one possessed. He pointed to a grassy spot under a Palmyra tree and said, 'This is where my master's body was burnt, that day. I can remember that terrible night.'"
1. Who is 'this man' described in this extract? What is the incident presented here?
 2. What made Jagan uneasy to believe that he was in the twentieth century?
 3. Explain in your own words.
 - a) Mutely followed
 - b) Grassy plot
 4. What is the transformation of Jagan's thinking that is reflected through this extract?
10. "He walked hurriedly to his shop with downcast eyes. Even his cousin found great stretches of silence when they met. Jagan had grown unwilling to talk about his son. Everything about him had become an inconvenient question. The cousin wanted to know what Mali had qualified himself for, what he proposed to do, and above all, who was that casteless girl at home. He was dying to know what dietary arrangements were made at home and if they cooked meet."
1. Who is 'he' and what made 'he' behave in this manner?
 2. Why had Jagan grown unwilling to talk about his son?
 3. Write the meanings.
 - a) Inconvenient question
 - b) Dietary arrangements
 4. Whom is referred to as 'casteless girl'? Comment on her relationship with the major characters in the novel.
11. "Jagan felt shocked for a moment, but he also felt a sneaking admiration. 'The boy is very practical,' he said with feeling. He sat brooding for some time and then said, trying to put on a happy look, 'See how self-reliant he has grown! I have always believed in leaving the entity to develop by itself, without relying on extraneous support. As they say in the Gita: every soul is God...'
1. What is the situation presented in the extract? Where does it take place?
 2. Why did Jagan feel shocked?
 3. Write the meanings.
 - a) A sneaking admiration
 - b) Without relying on extraneous support:

4. What attitude of the speaker towards 'the boy' is revealed through this passage?
12. ".....gone. Use of no use, my wife- well, you know I looked after all her life."
 Grace said rather shyly, 'The only good part of it is there's no child'.
 He found some portions of her talk obscure but could not ask explicitly for explanations. He said 'if you read our *puranas*, you will find that the wife's place is beside her husband whatever may happen. 'But we are not married,' Grace said simply."
1. What is the situation given in this passage and who is 'he' in the given extract?
 2. Why could not he ask explanations explicitly?
 3. Give the meanings.
 - a) Look after
 - b) Obscure
 4. Comment on the theme highlighted through the passage.
13. "He began to avoid people. His anxiety was lest the lawyer or the printer or anyone else should stop him in the street to inquire about his daughter-in-law. He walked hurriedly to his shop with downcast eyes. Even his cousin found great stretches of silence when they met. Jagan had grown unwilling to talk about his son. Everything about him had become an inconvenient question. The cousin wanted to know what Mali had qualified himself for, what he proposed to do, and, above all who was that casteless girl at home. He was dying to know what dietary arrangements were made at home and if they cooked meat. He inquired indirectly. 'Does Mali still like our coffee or does he ask for tea as some of these foreign returned people do...'"
1. What is the context of the above passage and who is the girl mentioned in the text?
 2. Why does the girl call as 'casteless'?
 3. Write the meanings of the followings in your own words.
 - a) Anxiety
 - b) Inconvenient
 4. How would you explain Jagan's thoughts here according to his behavior?
14. "...he stood looking at the girl. She looked so good and virtuous; he had relied on her so much and yet here she was living in sin and talking casually about it all. What breed of creatures are they?' he wondered, they had tainted his ancient home. He had borne much from them, he said coldly, 'No, I'm not coming in now. Let me go back to the shop...'"
1. What is the situation referred to in this passage? Where does it take place?
 2. Why does he say 'what breed of creatures they are'?
 3. Give the meanings of the followings in your own words.
 - a) Virtuous
 - b) Tainted
 4. What are the ways of life of the speaker according to this extract?
15. "That is what I am seeking but never attain! Jagan wailed and quietened his thoughts for a moment. Suddenly he remembered that he had been fooled by the young people and that the house which had remained unsullied for generations had this new taint to carry. How could he live in the same house with them? He was on the point of saying, 'I have half a mind to tell them to go where they please and do what they like, but not in my house...' But he checked himself; it was a statement that his tongue refused to phrase. Certain things acquired an evil complexion if phrased, but remained harmless in the mind. "How do you expect me to go on living there?"
1. What is the situation described in the passage? With whom does Jagan share his views?
 2. According to the underlined statement, what made Jagan feel like this?

3. Write the meanings of the followings.
a) Unsullied for generations
b) Attain
4. What theme of the novel is reflected through this? Explain.
16. "What is there to keep her happy?" cried Mali. "This is a miserable place with no life in it. She was used to a good life. She came here to work, and she is going back because she has no work to do."
- Jagan swallowed back the words he wanted to blurt out: 'but she is sweeping and cleaning the house. This is a big house and she has enough work to keep her engaged for a whole day. What more does she want?'
1. What is the situation given in the passage? Who is referred to as 'she'?
 2. Why is she going back?
 3. Give the meanings of the followings.
a) Swallowed back
b) Engaged
 4. What main theme is reflected through this passage? Explain in brief.
17. "He had never thought that he could feel so superior about it. Now it seemed to him worth all the money and the pangs of separation. "My son is in America," he said to a dozen person every day, puffing with pride on each occasion. It delayed his daily routine. On his way to the shop he had only to detect the slightest acquaintance on the road, and he would block his path, and instead of discussing weather or politics as was his custom, would lead the talk on gently to the topic of America and of his son's presence there. After days and days of hopeless waiting, when a colorful airmail letter had arrived by post, he had almost felt the same joy as if Mali had come back."
1. What is the situation described in the above extract? When does it take place?
 2. Why does Jagan feel so superior as mentioned in the extract?
 3. Write the meanings.
a) Pangs of separation
b) Slightest acquaintance
 4. What does this extract signify about Jagan's character? Explain briefly.
18. "I have an idea"
- Jagan felt slightly nervous and asked, 'What may it be?' The boy paused while swallowing his breakfast. 'I can't study anymore.' The father was aghast. 'Has anyone been rude to you in the college?'
- 'Let them try!' said the boy.
- 'Tell me what's happened.'
- 'Nothing', said the boy. 'I don't find it interesting, that's all', and he went on munching his food with his eyes down. Jagan had never seen him so serious. The boy seemed to have suddenly grown up."
1. What is the situation described in the passage? Where does it take place?
 2. What made the 1st speaker start this conversation?
 3. What do the following phrases mean?
a) Slightly nervous
b) Munching
 4. Explain your attitudes towards the 2nd speaker in this extract.

19. "What is there to keep her happy?" cried Mali. "This is a miserable place with no life in it. She was used to a good life. She came here to work, and she is going back because she has no work to do."

Jagan swallowed back the words he wanted to blurt out: 'but she is sweeping and cleaning the house. This is a big house and she has enough work to keep her engaged for a whole day. What more does she want?'

Mali announced. 'She came here for the project, to work with me; didn't you see her name in the notice?' Jagan had the art of ignoring the questions. Mali got up saying, 'If she has nothing to do here, she goes back. That's all. Her air ticket must be bought immediately.'

"But the wife must be with her husband, whatever happens."

"That was in your day," said Mali and left."

1. What is the situation here? Who is referred to as 'She'?
2. Why is she going back?
3. Explain the meanings.
 - a) Miserable
 - b) Ignoring
4. Comment on the attitudes of the two speakers towards marriage life and wife. What is the theme brought out here?

20. "What's that?"

'Don't you know what a psychiatrist is? What a back wood this is where nothing is known,' with that Mali turned and went in, leaving Jagan transfixed to the spot. He tried to recollect the words that Mali had said and tried to make out their meaning. There was no meaning. What was a psychiatrist? What would he do? Before he could sort it out in his mind, the neighbor edged along to the fence, commenting, 'so rare to see you! What is your son doing?'

'He is in business with some American businessmen.'

'Oh! That's very good. So he will earn dollars for our country. Very good... very good...' On this pleasant note Jagan tore himself away, because he felt that the next question was going to be about the daughter-in-law. Funny situation! - Not knowing whether she is a daughter-in-law or not. He was totally at a loss to decide who was lying."

1. What is the incident described in this passage? When does this happen?
2. Why is Jagan confused here?
3. Explain.
 - a) Transfixed to the spot
 - b) Tore himself away
4. What main theme is reflected through this passage?

21. "The boy made a wry face at the mention of the shop, fortunately the dim light did not reveal it fully. 'I tell you once and for all, I don't want to be.....' He merely concluded. 'I have learnt valuable things in the United States at the cost of several thousand dollars. Why can't our country make use of my knowledge? I.... I can't" Although he avoided the phrase 'vendor of sweets'; his repugnance for the occupation came out unmistakably. They remained silent, and Mali added the final touch; in any case your business is worth nothing now...."

1. Describe the situation briefly.
2. What made the speaker speak in this manner?
3. Describe the followings.
 - a) Made a wry face
 - b) Repugnance
4. Which qualities of the speaker are highlighted here? Relate them to the theme of the story.

22. "Matters became worse when Mali indicated the girl at his side and said, 'This is Grace. We are married. Grace, my dad.' Complete confusion. Married? When were you married? You didn't tell me. Don't you have to tell your father? Who is she? Anyway, she looks like a Chinese. Don't you know that one can't marry a Chinese nowadays? They have invaded our borders. Or perhaps she is a Japanese. How was one to find out? Any indiscreet question might upset the gentleman with the camera. Jagan threw a panicky look at his cousin and bed on the pretext of supervising the loading of the baggage into Gaffur's taxi outside. A gaping crowd followed them to the car murmuring, 'he's come from America.' Mali took notice of Gaffur by saying, 'Jalopy going strong?' Gaffur did not understand the word 'jalopy' (which sounded to everyone like jilebi prepared in Jagan's shop)

1. What is the situation in the passage and where does it take place?
2. Why was Jagan confused?
3. Explain the followings.
 - a) Indiscreet
 - b) Gaping
4. What state of mind is reflected by Jagan's behaviour here?

23. "The only letter Jagan rigorously suppressed was the one in which Mali had written after three years' experience of America. 'I've taken to eating beef, and I don't think I'm any the worse for it. Steak is something quite tasty and juicy. Now I want to suggest, why don't you people start eating beef? It'll solve the problem of useless cattle in our country and we won't have to beg for food from America. I sometimes feel ashamed when India asks for American aid. Instead of that, why not slaughter useless cows which wander in the streets and block the traffic?' Jagan felt outraged. The Shastras defined the five deadly sins and the killing of the cow headed the list."

1. What is the situation described in the passage?
2. As described in the extract, why is Jagan worried?
3. Write the meanings of the followings in your own words.
 - a) Slaughter
 - b) Outraged
4. What theme/themes reflected through this extract? Explain briefly.

24. "Though they lived under one roof, they might be in two different worlds. When he saw the light through the chink in the door, Jagan knew that the boy was in his room. He dared not knock on it. Rarely did they ever reach home at the same time so that there was no chance of their meeting in the hall. Jagan felt harrowed by the lack of information when the cousin arrived at his appointed time, he found Jagan looking so restless that he felt constrained to remark as he emerged from the kitchen, 'You are blessed with every gift of life: with what ninety out of hundred people crave for—money; and what a hundred out of a hundred do not attain—contentment. Yet you have not mastered one thing, that's the art of looking happy. You are always looking careworn.'"

1. What is the incident described in this passage? When does it take place?
2. What is meant by 'two different worlds'?
3. Write the meanings of the followings.
 - a) Constrained
 - b) Harrowed
4. What does the passage reveal about the relationship between the father and son?

25. "When the cousin came at 4.30 p.m. Jagan shouted, 'Come here, I'm waiting for you.' The cousin held up his arm as much as to say, 'Wait till I finish my savouring duties.' While he was in the kitchen, Jagan's ardour cooled.

He had mentally rehearsed a speech beginning, 'Do you know...', but actually asked when the cousin emerged from the kitchen, 'How well do you know Mali?'

He spent a little time gazing the tailor across the road pedaling his sewing machine, which, as Jagan knew, was a sign that the cousin was in deep thought. He shook him out of it by saying, 'Mali is nit married.'

1. What is the situation described here and when does it take place?
2. Comment on the relationship between these two people; Jagan and cousin.
3. Explain.
 - a) Savouring
 - b) Ardour
4. What do you feel about Jagan, as a father according to this extract?

26. "Don't you know what a psychiatrist is? What a back wood this is where nothing is known,' with that Mali turned and went in, leaving Jagan transfixed to the spot. He tried to recollect the words that Mali had said and tried to make out their meaning. There was no meaning. What was a psychiatrist? What would he do? Before he could sort it out in his mind, the neighbor edged along to the fence, commenting, 'so rare to see you! What is your son doing?'

'He is in business with some American businessmen.'

'Oh! That's very good. So he will earn dollars for our country. Very good... very good...' On this pleasant note Jagan tore himself away, because he felt that the next question was going to be about the daughter-in-law. Funny situation! - Not knowing whether she is a daughter-in-law or not. He was totally at a loss to decide who was lying."

1. What is the situation presented in this text?
2. What made Mali to talk about psychiatrist?
3. Write the meanings.
 - a) Back wood
 - b) Edged
4. Comment on the passage.

27. "Jagan could not help asking, 'Why are you bothered about it?'

'Very important, very important, I tell you. When I have found it, you will know.'

He unwrapped himself in the stick abruptly and said 'Now I remember, come with me.'

He moved briskly towards the pond. 'Come down with me. Mind the steps—they are slippery.'

He went down the steps and up to his knees in water. Jagan lagged behind, unable to comprehend the other's action. "Perhaps he is going to knock me in to the pond and go back to the town and report, 'The maker of sweets has vanished.' The other's face was flushed with excitement as he looked up and cried, 'Won't you come down? What if your Dhoti gets wet? You can dry it later.' His tone was peremptory."

1. Where does this take place? Who are the characters appeared in this text?
2. Briefly explain the situation.
3. Explain using your own words.
 - a) Briskly
 - b) Peremptory
4. Why was Jagan worried? Explain.

28. "The rest Jagan did not hear; he lost interest in the tall girl who was only a sort of advanced guard for her younger sister, who came with downcast eyes and bowed head and moved across the arena so fast that Jagan could not take in any detail. 'Not short nor tall, not fat nor puny....' Jagan could not arrange her in any clear outline. The details overlapped, but producing only

impressions of an agreeable nature, and not provoking aversion as on the previous occasions. “How is she to know what I look like if she flits by so fast?” Jagan speculated. “I don’t care what my brother is going to say later; for the present I’m going to stare, gaze and study. I don’t care what anybody thinks.” He stared unwinkingly at the girl. She had a thick wad of wavy hair, plaited and decorated flowers and many pieces of jewellery.”

1. Whose thoughts are expressed in this passage? Who is referred to as ‘she’?
2. What prompted these thoughts in the speaker?
3. Write the meanings of the followings.
 - a) Puny
 - b) Flits by
4. What is the theme reflected through this passage? Explain.

29. “But the lawyer will have to build it up and establish it,” said the cousin, ‘With proper evidence. He is thinking of ways and means. If he is able to establish the malafides of the policeman, we may even file a counter case in order to strengthen ours.’”

Jagan’s mind had attained extraordinary clarity now. He threw a look at his bag, lightly lifted it and said, ‘I wish you all luck; you and your lawyer and his distinguished client and also the poor soul—the policeman who had the misfortune to stop the green car: but don’t expect me to take any part in it. Leave me out of it completely; forget me and I’ll go away without asking too many questions.’”

“Where, where are you going?” asked the cousin anxiously.

“I will seek a new interest—different from the set of repetitions performed for sixty years. I am going somewhere, not carrying more than what my shoulder can bear. All that I need is in that bag...”

“Including the bank book, I suppose,” asked the cousin, ‘which is compact way of carrying things. How far are you going?’”

1. What is the situation described in this text?
2. What does Jagan intend to do in the future?
3. Write the meanings of the followings.
 - a) Malafides
 - b) Establish
4. What unimpressive feature of the society is reflected through this extract?

30. “What do you mean?” Said Jagan, leaning back in the shadow of Sir Fredrick’s spurs. All kinds of morbid and terrifying speculations arose in Jagan’s mind. Was the boy counterfeiting money or murdering someone? A hundred evil possibilities occurred to him. He gripped the other’s wrist and commanded, “Tell me everything without concealing anything.”

The cousin shook off the hold contemptuously. “He is writing, that’s all. Wants to be a writer.”

“Writer” meant in Jagan’s dictionary only one thing—a clerk—Anglo-Indian, colonial term since the days when Macaulay had devised a system of education to provide a constant supply of clerical for the East India Company. Jagan felt aghast. Here he was trying to shape the boy into an aristocrat with a bicycle, college life, stripped shirts and everything, and he wanted to be a “writer”! Strange!

“Why does he want to be a writer?” he asked.

“I don’t know, you will have to ask him.”

“Where does he want to work? It’s degrading!” he cried, “after all the trouble I’ve taken to build up a reputation and status.” He beat his brow in despair.”

1. What is the situation mentioned here? When does it take place?
2. As described in the extract why Jagan is worried and troubled?

3. Explain.
 - a) Concealing
 - b) Contemptuously
4. Describe Jagan's character as reflected in the above extract.

31. "What has it to do with her?" asked Jagan; the connections were baffling, like the wiring at the back of the radio panel.

"Why would she stay here?" asked the boy plainly. "She has nothing to do."

"I don't understand what you are talking about. I have never been able to understand you at all. Call her, let me talk to her." He had got used to the presence of Grace in the house and he felt desolated at the thought of losing her.

"She has gone", said Mali briefly.

"Where, at this time of the night?"

"She can go where she pleases, why should anyone question her?"

"No, it's not that," said Jagan. Fate seemed to decree that there should be no communication between them. Some invisible force twisted their tongues when they wanted to speak and made them say wrong things. Jagan stood desperately, bent down close to his son's face, and cried.

"Where does she go? Why does she go? Is she unhappy here?"

1. What is the situation and when does it take place?
2. What can you say about the argument here?
3. Explain.
 - a) Baffling
 - b) Desolate
4. What can you say about the character of Mali according to this extract?

32. "Jagan felt that he was following a stranger. When Mali approached him, extending his hand, he tried to shrink away and shield himself behind the cousin. When he had to speak to his son, with great difficulty he restrained himself from calling him 'sir' and employing the honorific plural."

1. What is the situation described here?
2. Why did Jagan feel that he was following a stranger?
3. Explain the following words.
 - a) Shrink away
 - b) Restrained
4. Comment on the relationship between Jagan and Mali according to the extract given here.

33. "He still had to pay his visit to his house, to collect a few things he needed, though he would prefer to walk off, just walk off, as the Buddha did when he got enlightenment. It was five o'clock, his usual hour for the bath for half a century.

An hour later, after his morning ablutions and nourishment, he came out of his house carrying a little bundle, in which among other things was included his chakra. "It's a duty I owe Mahatma Gandhi. I made a vow before him that I would spin every day of my life. I've got to do it, whether I'm at home or in a forest."

The sunlight, the cold bath, and the gruel he had had mitigated somewhat the ardour of his renunciation. He still had the key in his hand. "I must leave it somewhere." He thought, "With someone. I can't take it with me... But why not, after all...."

1. What is the situation presented in the above extract and when does it take place?
2. Why does the character mentioned as 'I' think over the key?
3. Write the meanings of the followings in your own words.
 - a) Ablutions and nourishments

- b) The ardour of his renunciation
4. Comment briefly on the significant theme/s represented in the passage given above.

34. "Mali proved unusually communicative from across the seas, and although at times he sounded brusque, disconnected, or impersonal, he generalized a good deal about the civilization in which he found himself. The blue airmail letters grew into a file. If only Mali had taken the precaution of leaving a proper margin to his epistles, Jagan would have bound them into a neat little volume at Truth Printing; surely Nataraj would have realized its importance and obliged him with a speedy execution. Jagan stuffed his jibba pocket with the letters and pulled them out for choice reading of passages to all and sundry, mostly to his cousin, who, as ever, remained an uncomplaining listener. Gradually his reading of the Bhagavad Gita was replaced by the blue airmail letters."

1. What is the situation given in the passage? When does it take place?
2. Why couldn't Jagan bind the letters into a neat little volume?
3. Explain using your own words.
 - a) Epistles
 - b) Speedy execution
4. What aspects of Jagan's character are revealed by the passage?

35. "He felt hurt at the recollection as if a needle had probed a wound. 'I have probably outlived my purpose in this house. If I live for ten or fifteen years more, it will have to be on a different plane. At sixty, one is reborn and enters a new *janma*.' That was the reason why people celebrated their sixtieth birthdays. He remembered his father and mother, his uncle and aunt, and a score of other couples celebrating a man's sixtieth year like a wedding, with pipe, drum and feasting. People loved to celebrate one thing or another all the time. He had had his fill of these festivals, and had nothing to complain of it."

1. Whose thoughts are expressed in this passage and when does this happen?
2. What prompted these thoughts in the speaker?
3. Explain.
 - a) Outlived
 - b) On a different plane
4. What state of mind is reflected by the speaker's expression?

36. "He pleaded, 'Son, I'll leave you in charge of the shop, it's yours. Take it.'"

The boy made a wry face at the mention of the shop, fortunately the dim light did not reveal it fully. 'I tell you once and for all, I don't want to be.....' He merely concluded. 'I have learnt valuable things in the United States at the cost of several thousand dollars. Why can't our country make use of my knowledge? I.... I can't' Although he avoided the phrase 'vendor of sweets'; his repugnance for the occupation came out unmistakably. They remained silent, and Mali added the final touch; "in any case your business is worth nothing now."

"Who told you that?"

"Everyone in the trade is talking about you. What are you trying to do anyway?"

1. What is the situation described in the passage and who are the speakers?
2. What is the boy arguing about?
3. Write the meanings of the following in your own words.
 - a) Made a wry face
 - b) Repugnance for the occupation
4. What is the theme that is reflected through the above passage?

37. "Two days later, coming at the usual time, the cousin found the shop entrance crowded. A placard hung from the counter; 'Any packet 25 paise.' There was such a clamour for the packets that the boy at the counter looked hurried and exhausted. Old men, young men, children, beggars and labourers, everyone fell over each other with outstretched arms, and the trays were emptied as fast as they were filled from the kitchen. By five o'clock, the entire stock of the sweets for the day was exhausted. Sivaraman and the other cooks came out of the kitchen, stood before Jagan and asked, 'What do we do now?'"

1. What is the incident described here and when did this happen?
2. Why were people hurried in the place?
3. Explain using your own words.
 - a) A placard hung
 - b) The day was exhausted
4. How does the sudden change of the owner affect on the customers and the business community?

38. "I thought you were fond of your friends", Jagan said, seizing every opportunity to acquire a better understanding of his son's mind. He had thought that the friends were dear to the boy, the way they stood beside the statue leaning on their bicycles and talking loudly. It was also a slight matter of relief, for Jagan had a fear that his friends might be misleading the boy; now it was some satisfaction to know that he was going astray entirely through his own individual effort."

1. Who are the people involved in this discussion and where does this take place?
2. Who stood beside the statue?
3. Explain.
 - a) Seizing every opportunity
 - b) Entirely
4. What do the lines reveal about the relationship between this father and son?

39. "Conquer taste and you will have conquered the self," said Jagan to his listener, who asked, "Why conquer the self?" Jagan said, "I do not, but all our sages advise us so." The listener lost interest in the question, his aim was only to stimulate conversation, while he occupied a low wooden stool next to Jagan's chair. Jagan sat under the framed picture of the Goddess Lakshmi hanging on the wall, and offered prayers first thing in the day by reverently placing a string of jasmine on top of the frame;"

1. What incident is presented in the paragraph and where does it take place?
2. Name the characters in the above extract and give your attitudes towards the listener.
3. Explain using your own words.
 - a) Conquer
 - b) Stimulate
4. Briefly explain Jagan's characteristics as revealed by the given extract.

40. "Because, perhaps, it is the only country where they teach such things."

"They eat only beef and pork in that country. I used to know a man from America and he told me...."

"They also drink a lot of intoxicating drinks, never water or milk," said the cousin, contributing his own bit of information. 'And the women are free,' he added. "I have seen some of their magazines about films; their women mix freely with men and snap off marriages without ado, and bask in the sun without clothes."

"Where did you see all this?" asked Jagan, and did not note the answer from the cousin, who flourished his arms vaguely, Jagan went on, 'It may not all true,' nor wishing to think a country

to which Mali was going was one to corrupt his body with wine, women and meat, and his soul with other things. He said with a sudden determination, "But it's unthinkable. Mali shall stay here."

The cousin smiled cynically. Jagan had a momentary slab of suspicion that this man was at the back of it all, but the doubt passed."

1. Who are the two persons involved in the above conversation and what is the main topic of the conversation?
2. Briefly describe, what cause them to have this kind of conversation?
3. Explain.
 - a) Snap off marriages without ado
 - b) Flourished his arms vaguely
4. Comment briefly on the significant theme/s represented in the above extract.

41. "But it must be very costly," said Jagan.

"But he has doubtless found the cash for it," said the cousin.

"Naturally, what is the cash worth to me? It's all for him. He can have everything he wants", said Jagan, making a note mentally to count at the earliest moment his cash hoarded in the loft. He also considered transferring it all, in due course, to a casket behind the family God's in the puja room."

1. Where are the two speakers at the moment?
2. What must be very costly according to Jagan?
3. Explain using your own words.
 - a) Prattling boy
 - b) In due course
4. What characteristics of Jagan are revealed through this extract? Explain briefly.

42. "Oh, everybody is not you", the cousin flattered, giving a soft back-stroke to his tuft. Flattery was his accredited business in life; even when he joked and disparaged it was all a part of his flattery. He said, 'You are nor one who knows how to make money. If you were unscrupulous, you could have built many mansions, who knows?'

"And what would one do with many mansions?" asked Jagan and quoted a Tamil verse which said that even if eight million ideas float across your mind, you cannot wear more than four cubits of cloth or eat more than a little measure of rice at a time."

1. When and where does the incident described above take place?
2. Briefly describe cousin's feelings as presented in the passage.
3. Explain.
 - a) Accredited business
 - b) Many mansions.
4. Comment on the character of Jagan according to the given extract.

43. "College, college and of course college. The very word drives him crazy, although you like it so much. He hates his lessons; he hates his syllabus and all his books. He very thought infuriates him. Do you know what he did? He had his class books in his hand. I had ordered dosai for him and we were waiting. He suddenly tore up the pages of his book savagely, beckoned an attendant, and said, 'Put these in the fire in the kitchen.'"

1. What is the context of this extract?
2. What was the manner he behaved as mentioned here?
3. Explain using your own words.
 - a) Savagely

b) Drives crazy

4. What can you understand about 'he' through this given extract?

44. "All right, I'll come to your college and speak to those people." The boy looked up angrily. In his anxiety to communicate a new ideas to his father, he had become brusque and aggressive. His face was flushed. "So early in the morning, and the boy showing such a temper!" Jagan reflects as if temper had an approved time table. "All right, get on with your eating. We will talk of these things later", he mumbled when he should have said, "Swallow your food and run off to your class."

1. State the situation presented here?

2. What made the boy to be angry?

3. Explain using your own words.

a) Anxiety

b) Aggressive

4. Analyze the qualities of Jagan as presented in the passage.

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BHAGYA MADUWANTHI